

# *Service Guide to WFO Paducah*

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***A GUIDE TO PRODUCTS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY WFO PADUCAH FOR  
SOUTHEAST MISSOURI, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS, WESTERN KENTUCKY, AND  
SOUTHWEST INDIANA***

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## *Foreword*

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The *Service Guide to WFO Paducah* was designed specifically for the news media, emergency management, and other personnel that rely on the National Weather Service for weather products and services. We believe that you will find this a handy reference tool for answering questions concerning the daily mission of the National Weather Service. If you should have any questions or would like to offer comments on this guide, please contact one of the following office managers:

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- (1) *A Guide to Products and Services Provided by WSFO Louisville for Kentucky and Southern Indiana*, written by Van L. DeWald.
- (2) *Wisconsin Media Guide to Frequently Used NWS Weather Terms*, authored by Steve Thompson and Anton F. Kapela.

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# *Abbreviations and Acronyms*

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AFD	Area Forecast Discussion
AGL	above ground level
AMS	American Meteorological Society
AOMC	ASOS Operations and Monitoring Center
AR	Arkansas
ASL	above sea level
ASOS	Automated Surface Observing System
AVN	aviation forecasting model
AWC	Aviation Weather Center (NCEP component)
AWIPS	Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System
AWOS	Automated Weather Observing System
AWS	Area Weather Summary
BKN	broken (sky cover)
BNA	Nashville, TN (NWS product identifier)
C	Celsius
CAT	clear air turbulence
CCF	Coded Cities Forecast
CDD	cooling degree-day
CGI	Cape Girardeau, MO (ASOS)
CHI	Chicago, IL (NWS product identifier)
CLI	Daily Climatic Summary
CLM	Monthly Climatic Summary
CLR	clear below 12,000 feet (sky cover)
CONUS	contiguous United States
CPC	Climate Prediction Center (NCEP component)
CPM	Cooperative Program Manager
CR	Central Region (NWS)
CRH	Central Region Headquarters
CRS	Console Replacement System (NOAA Weather Radio)
CWA	county warning area
CWFA	county warning and forecast area
DAPM	Data Acquisition Program Manager
DIFAX	digital facsimile
DOC	Department of Commerce
DOD	Department of Defense
DOT	Department of Transportation
DY1	Day 1
DY2	Day 2

EAS	Emergency Alert System
ECMWF	European Centre for Medium-Range Forecasting (forecast model)
EHR	Henderson, KY (AWOS)
EMWIN	Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
ENSO	El Niño-Southern Oscillation
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Electronic Systems Analyst
ESF	Flood Potential Outlook
ET	Electronics Technician (also El Tech)
EUMETSAT	European Meteorological Satellite (NOAA equivalent)
EVV	Evansville, IN (ASOS)
F	Fahrenheit
FA	forecast area
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FEW	few (sky cover)
FFA	Flood/Flash Flood Watch
FFG	Flash Flood Guidance
FFS	Flood/Flash Flood Statement
FFW	Flood/Flash Flood Warning
FIPS	Federal Information Processing System
FLS	Flood Statement
FLW	Flood Warning
FM	frequency modulation
FOS	Family of Services
FOSFAX	FOS Facsimile Network (NAFAX & DIFAX)
FWF	Fire Weather Forecast
FWM	NFDRS Fire Weather Point Forecast
GMT	Greenwich Mean Time
GOES	Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite
GOES-NEXT	Next-Generation Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite
HDD	heating degree-day
HI	heat index
HMT	Hydrometeorological Technician
HOP	Hopkinsville/Fort Campbell, KY (manual observation site)
HPC	Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (NCEP component)
HPX	Hopkinsville/Fort Campbell, KY (WSR-88D)
HSA	Hydrologic Service Area
HTM	HyperText Markup
HTML	HyperText Markup Language
HTTP	HyperText Transfer Protocol

IFR	instrument flight rules
IL	Illinois
ILX	Central Illinois/Lincoln, IL (NWS product identifier, WSR-88D)
IN	Indiana
IND	Indianapolis, IN (NWS product identifier, WSR-88D)
IR	infrared
IWIN	Interactive Weather Information Network
KY	Kentucky
LAWRS	Limited Aviation Weather Reporting Station
LDS	Lightning Detection System
LIT	Little Rock, AR (NWS product identifier)
LLWS	low-level wind shear
LMK	Louisville, KY (NWS product identifier)
LMRFC	Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center (Slidell, LA)
LOT	Chicago, IL (NWS product identifier)
LSR	Local Storm Report
LSX	St. Louis, MO (NWS product identifier, WSR-88D)
LVX	Louisville, KY (WSR-88D)
LZK	Little Rock, AR (WSR-88D)
MAR	Modernization and Associated Restructuring of the NWS
MB	millibar
MCD	Mesoscale Convective Discussion
MDH	Carbondale, IL (ASOS)
MEG	Memphis, TN (WSR-88D)
MEM	Memphis, TN (NWS product identifier)
MET	Meteorologist
METAR	Meteorological Aviation Report
METEOSAT	European Space Agency Meteorological Satellite
METSAT	meteorological satellite
MHz	megahertz
MIC	Meteorologist-In-Charge
MIT	Meteorologist Intern
MKC	Storm Prediction Center (product identifier)
MO	Missouri
MOS	model output statistics
MPH	miles per hour
MRF	medium-range forecast model
MSL	mean sea level
MSLP	mean sea-level pressure
MVFR	marginal visual flight rules
MVN	Mt. Vernon, IL (AWOS)
MWA	Marion, IL (AWOS)

NAFAX	National Facsimile Network
NAWAS	National Warning System
NCDC	National Climatic Data Center
NCEP	National Centers for Environmental Prediction (formerly NMC)
NCRFC	North Central River Forecast Center (Minneapolis, MN)
NEIC	National Earthquake Information Center
NESDIS	National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service
NFDRS	National Fire Danger Rating System
NGM	nested grid model
NHC	National Hurricane Center (also Tropical Prediction Center)
NIDS	NEXRAD Information Dissemination Service
NM	nautical mile
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOW	Short Term Forecast (Nowcast)
NPW	Weather Message (non-precipitation weather)
NSSL	National Severe Storms Laboratory
NVA	negative vorticity advection
NWA	National Weather Association
NWP	numerical weather prediction
NWR	NOAA Weather Radio
NWR-SAME	NOAA Weather Radio—Specific Area Message Encoder
NWS	National Weather Service
NWSTC	NWS Training Center
NWWS	NOAA Weather Wire Service
OBS	observations
OHRFC	Ohio River Forecast Center (Wilmington, OH)
OHX	Nashville, TN (WSR-88D)
OML	Operations Manual Letter (from NWS Headquarters)
OPM	Office of Personnel Management
OVC	overcast (sky cover)
OWB	Owensboro, KY (manual observation site)
PAH	Paducah, KY (NWS product identifier, WSR-88D, ASOS)
PNS	Public Information Statement
POES	Polar-Orbiting Environmental Satellite
POF	Poplar Bluff, MO (ASOS)
POP	probability of precipitation
PVA	positive vorticity advection
PWO	Public Weather Outlook
QPF	quantitative precipitation forecast
RD	Regional Director
RER	Record Report
RFC	River Forecast Center

RH	relative humidity
ROML	Regional Operations Manual Letter
ROSA	Remote Observation System Automation
RTP	Regional Temperature and Precipitation Summary
RUC	rapid update cycle (forecast model)
RVA	River Summary, Precipitation Summary, River Forecasts
RVS	River Statement
SAME	Specific Area Message Encoder
SAW	Preliminary Watch Notification
SAWRS	Supplementary Aviation Weather Reporting Station
SCT	scattered (sky cover)
SDF	Louisville, KY (NWS product identifier)
SEL	Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch
SELS	Severe Local Storms Unit
SFD	State Forecast Discussion
SFP	State Forecast Product
SGF	Springfield, MO (NWS product identifier, WSR-88D)
SID	station identifier
SKC	clear (sky cover)
SLO	Special Liaison Officer
SLS	Weather Watch Redefining Statement
SM	statute mile
SOO	Science and Operations Officer
SPC	Storm Prediction Center (NCEP component)
SPECI	Special Meteorological Aviation Report
SPI	Central Illinois/Lincoln, IL (NWS product identifier)
SPS	Special Weather Statement
SR	Southern Region (NWS)
SRH	Southern Region Headquarters
STL	St. Louis, MO (NWS product identifier)
STP	State Temperature and Precipitation Summary
SVR	Severe Thunderstorm Warning
SVS	Severe Weather Statement
SWO	Severe Weather Outlook
SWR	State Weather Roundup
TAF	Terminal Aerodrome Forecast
TN	Tennessee
TOR	Tornado Warning
TPC	Tropical Prediction Center (NCEP component)
TWB	Transcribed Weather Broadcast
TWEB	Transcribed Weather Broadcast
UA	upper air
UGC	Universal Geographic Code

UK	United Kingdom (forecast model)
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time
UV	ultraviolet
UVI	ultraviolet index
VFR	visual flight rules
VHF	very high frequency
VIL	vertically integrated liquid
VIS	visible
WARNGEN	Warning Generator (AWIPS)
WC	wind chill
WCF	wind-chill factor
WCM	Warning Coordination Meteorologist
WFO	Weather Forecast Office
WIN	Weather Information Now
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSH	National Weather Service Headquarters
WSOM	Weather Service Operations Manual
WSR	weather surveillance radar
WSR-88D	Weather Surveillance Doppler radar
WSW	Winter Weather Message
WV	water vapor
WWA	Weather Watch Status Report
WWW	world-wide web
WX	weather
ZFP	Zone Forecast Product